The Cleveland Museum of Art

Press Release

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THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART OFFERS RARELY-SEEN SILENT MOVIES

Archive Treasures from the George Eastman House
Wednesday evenings, June 7–28, 1995
Admission $4, $3 CMA members.

The George Eastman House in Rochester, New York, is one of only five full-fledged film archives in the United States. Some of the Eastman House's most prized possessions make up the series, **Archive Treasures from the George Eastman House,** showing in June as part of the Wednesday Evening Festivals at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Four silent films—all love stories, all highly recommended by Eastman House curators—will be shown in pristine archive prints with musical accompaniment. *Lucky Star* and *Lonesome* proved sensations at recent Telluride and Pordenone Film Festival screenings. The other two films, Cecil B. DeMille's *The Cheat* and Josef von Sternberg's *The Docks of New York,* are personal favorites of James Card, retired longtime director of the department of film at the Eastman House and author of *Seductive Cinema: The Art of Silent Film* (Knopf, 1994). Card, a former Clevelander who presented movies at the CMA during the 1930s, returns to Cleveland on June 7 to introduce *The Cheat* and shed light on a lifetime spent in the dark. The Wednesday Evening Festivals also offer dining, music, special events, and of course art, from 5:00 to 9:45 pm every Wednesday this summer.

Wed/7 June, 7:30 pm James Card presents *The Cheat,* USA, 1915, b&w, silent, 55 min. Directed by Cecil B. DeMille, with Sessue Hayakawa. Ex-Clevelander James Card, who presented movies at the CMA during the 1930s before becoming longtime Director of the Department of Film at the George Eastman House, returns to his hometown with one of his all-time favorite movies. Lovingly described in his new book *Seductive Cinema: The Art of Silent Film,* DeMille's masterpiece is a shocking melodrama of blackmail and brutality that begins when a Japanese man loans money to a society dame. Live piano accompaniment.

Wed/14 June, 7:30 pm *Lucky Star,* USA, 1929, b&w, silent, 90 min. Directed by Frank Borzage, with Janet Gaynor and Charles Farrell. The surprise hit of the 1990 Pordenone (Italy) Silent Film Festival, this moving and poetic backwoods melodrama tells of a young woman's love for a disabled WWI veteran. Live piano accompaniment by Sebastian Birch. Shown courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp.

Wed/21 June, 7:30 pm *Lonesome,* USA, 1928, b&w, silent with music track, 90 min. Directed by Paul Fejos. A telephone operator and a mechanic meet by chance at Coney Island, but are rudely separated before their love can take root. This masterpiece of lyrical cinema by Hungarian emigré Fejos proved the major rediscovery at last year's Telluride Film Festival.

Wed/28 June, 7:30 pm *The Docks of New York,* USA, 1928, b&w, silent, 90 min. Directed by Josef von Sternberg, with George Bancroft and Betty Compson. One of the true pinnacles of silent screen visual poetry, this is a moving tale of a coal stoker's love for a would-be suicide in New York's lower depths. Live piano accompaniment by Sebastian Birch.

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